

Enterprise, Alabama

March, 2000

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR will be held **16 March at Noon** at the **Po' Folks Restaurant** in Enterprise. The program this month will include a short business meeting and then excerpts from the video of the September Bicentennial Program in Elba. At the February meeting, Ms Courtney Herring of Geneva, the Chapter's Knight Essay Contest Winner, read her essay titled, *The American Revolution - A Diamond in the Rough*. She was presented a certificate of appreciation along with a check for \$100.00. Her essay has been entered into the State Society's contest. Second place winner Tina Strozier was presented a \$50.00 check and certificate from the Chapter a few days earlier by Compatriot Jim Lee at Carroll High School. Congratulations to both of these young ladies for their excellent entries.

ALSSAR 111th ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Annual Convention, held the 25/26 February in Huntsville, provided a perfect opportunity to socialize with other Compatriots from around the State and to meet NSSAR President-General Howard Horne. During the meeting it was announced the State Society had 651 members which represented an 11% growth rate from the previous year. During the business session of the convention, **Rod Hildreth**, Senior Vice President was elected ALSSAR President for the upcoming year. He, along with other new officers, were installed at the Banquet Saturday night by the NSSAR President-General. At the same time, Astronaut Jan

Davis was presented the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Metal. Sharing the limelight Saturday night with a President-General, an Astronaut, and a new ALSSAR President, was our own Chapter President Dick Kemp. Dick was presented the Patriot Medal, the highest award for meritorious service the State Society can bestow on a member. He was cited for his work as the State Genealogist, efforts in establishing two chapters, being president/ past president of the Tri-State and Wiregrass Chapters, and his work as Commander of the State Color Guard. For those of us who have worked with Dick, we know he was truly deserving of this prestigious award.

CONGRATUATIONS, PRESIDENT KEMP!!

INTERNET RESEARCH

Looking for some early land records? Check the following Government Land Office Site:

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.asp>

The site provides live database access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States. Image access is provided to more than two million Federal land title records for Eastern Public Land States, issued between 1820 and 1908. The editor has used this site and been able to locate land records for both a 2nd and 3rd great grandfather. While looking for lost ancestors on the Internet, take a minute and visit the SAR Website www.sar.org. You will find a vast amount of information on our organization to include an Internet copy of the *SAR Handbook*. The Chapter is in the process of updating our webpage link to the ALSSAR webpage and SAR page, and should be posted by the end of the month.

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MEMBERSHIP

One of the chapter's major goals this year is to expand our membership base within the Wiregrass Area. Without a doubt we each know individuals whom are eligible for membership and would enjoy the opportunity to support the SAR's patriotic goals. All we need to do is offer an invitation. Very often people are not aware of how to "prove" their family history, but there are a great many people willing to assisting in this documentation process. Compatriot Eric Refoal of Magna, Utah is willing to assist new members by utilizing the LDS Library in Salt Lake City to resolve any of the genealogical problems the individual might encounter. He can be contacted at refoal@email.msn.com And speaking of new members, we are happy to announce that **Joseph P. Creekmore**'s application has been approved and we want to extend a warm welcome to Jody. He has already taken on the job of working with the Chapter's Eagle Scout Program. Jody is joining a very special organization which boasts the membership of several past presidents, members of Congress and court justices. To this list of prominent people we can now add a King. Last week President General Howard Horne lead a delegation at Blair House to present King Juan Carlos of Spain membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. His membership in SAR is based on the significant financial aid given by King Carlos III of Spain during the American Revolution and for providing an army under the command of General Bernardo de Galvez who fought the British and defeated them in the panhandle of Florida and in Louisiana.

NEWSLETTER

For the past year, the Chapter's monthly publication has gone out under the banner of "NEWSLETTER". It has been suggested the Chapter should select a name for the publication. While the suggestion of *The Peanut Picker* has been generally discarded, other suggestions received by the editor include: *The Flint-Locker*, *The Lantern*, *Smoke 'n Powder* and *The Compatriots' Companion*. Do you have any suggestions or comments on a name for our Publication? Also, the editor would like to hear of things you might like to see in future issues. The aim of the newsletter is to keep members abreast of happenings, not only in the local chapter, but also at the State and National levels. All comments are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plans are under way to have a joint meeting with the Tri-State Chapter in Ozark during the month of May. At the same time, a joint luncheon meeting with the John Coffee Chapter DAR is being considered for the Fall of the year. More information on these upcoming events will be published later.

Richard Kemp - President
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John Wallace - Editor
johnrx@snowhill.com

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